

PRESS RELEASE



ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tobin & Campbell, time to restore reductions in HURF funding

Transportation spending will help bring recovery to all parts of state

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives Andy Tobin, R-Prescott (District 1), and House Minority Leader Chad Campbell, D-Phoenix (District 24), asked Governor Jan Brewer to restore reductions in funding for transportation infrastructure, critical to rural Arizona.

“Faced with more than a \$3 billion dollar budget shortfall in 2010, tough choices had to be made,” Tobin said. “But after two years of delivering a balanced budget that also deflected cuts from key areas like education, now is the time to restore reductions in HURF funding for roads and bridges.”

The Highway User Revenue Fund is the main source of revenue to fund improvements and maintenance of the state’s roads, highways and bridges, Tobin said.

“And those dollars are particularly missed or felt in many rural communities around the state,” Tobin added.

In the letter, Tobin and Campbell requested that the governor restore \$238 million to HURF during fiscal years 2015 and 2016, in addition to existing HURF revenues. The Legislature diverted money from HURF during the recent fiscal crisis to offset cuts in other priority areas.

“Restoring HURF will help communities across our state repair streets and roads that were neglected at the height of the financial crisis,” Campbell said.

Investing in the state’s transportation infrastructure will help bring the recovery to all parts of the state, Tobin said.

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Dear Governor Brewer,

As you prioritize spending for fiscal year 2015, we would like to see Arizona's infrastructure needs near the top of your list.

The recession and subsequent slow growth period that followed it pulled money from the state HURF fund and, in addition, forced cutbacks by local community leaders on roads and streets that they maintain, putting our transportation infrastructure years behind its normal maintenance schedule.

Given the approximate \$750 million reduction in spending that HURF has experienced since 2002, we suggest that your budget fully restore HURF funding for fiscal years 2015 and 2016. All together we are hoping to see HURF funding for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 at \$119 million per year.

As you know, HURF spending is vital to the state's economy, providing a multiplier effect to the state's gross domestic product. As well, properly maintained roads increase public safety and make traveling throughout the state that much more enjoyable.

We look forward to working with you to pass a budget that capitalizes on opportunities to enhance our recovery, consolidates our recent gains and provides a sustainable path forward for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andy M. Tobin".

Andy Tobin
Speaker of the House

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chad Campbell".

Chad Campbell
Minority Leader